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RECEIVED PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of

Nobuaki HASHIMOTO

Application No.: 09/615,503 ✓

Filed: July 13, 2000

Docket No.: 101929.02

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME, CIRCUIT BOARD, AND ELECTRONIC APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

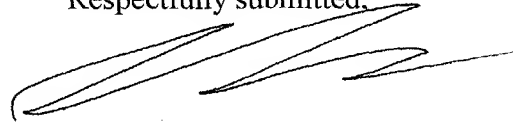
Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed May 30, 2001, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-17, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 27, 2001

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